

Banbury Cake

Your *FREE* weekly paper

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BLOW OVER OAP BUSES

AN ATTEMPT to look at alternative funding for the dial-a-ride service has been scuppered.

Labour councillors put forward a motion to call on Cherwell District Council to investigate whether there were any grants available to supplement the service – a door-to-door minibus service for the disabled and OAPs.

The Tory-run council instead backed an amended proposal, which effectively agreed to look to the voluntary sector for help.

The move comes after Banburyshire Community Transport closed after two decades serving north Oxfordshire.

It could not afford to run the bus scheme after failing to win a key council contract. The charity collapsed with the loss of 15 jobs.

Previously Cherwell District Council had contributed £187,500 a year to the charity's running costs and £26,364 came from Oxfordshire County Council.

But from April, Cherwell cut its contribution to £30,000.

Labour group leader Patrick Cartledge said: "All they have done is changed the motion from what we put forward, so there is nothing substantial in there. It's meaningless."

But town council leader Kieron Mallon described the amendments as being in the "same spirit" as the original motion.

He said: "The original motion asked for a review and there is a review already taking place."

"They asked for extra funding to be given to dial-a-ride in Cherwell, and there's funding of £30,000 put in already."

By Sam McGregor

"My motion recognises in these difficult times councils cannot pluck money out of the air. I'm asking councils to work together across Oxfordshire and look at ways to make this system better, in part looking at the voluntary sector."

Meanwhile, Deddington-based lunch club, the Windmill Thursday Club, said it had been hit by the collapse of BCTA.

Deputy co-ordinator Jean Rudge said the transport service stopped overnight and that last week only four of the usual 12 people were able to make it.

She said: "It's always the vulnerable that pay."

"If we don't get the transport, we can't

run. It's so important for people to get out and have social contact, let alone a hot meal.

"It's 12 old people, some have mobility problems and can't get a taxi. I know one of them hasn't got any family and doesn't see anyone else."

"If we have to close there will be redundancies for the people who provide the lunches."

Mrs Rudge did not believe the volunteer driver scheme could work because there was no set price.

At the moment lunch club-goers paid £7.50, which included lunch and transport.

But she said: "It's not a set charge. One of our ladies uses the scheme and can pay £5 to £15 for the journey because it depends where the driver comes from."



ABOVE: Labour group leader Patrick Cartledge



RIGHT: Council leader Kieron Mallon

Hobby horses in the starting gate

THE ever-popular Hobby Horse Festival will take place in People's Park, Banbury, on Sunday.

A procession of equine creations will leave the town hall at 12.30pm and trot to the park, via High Street, Banbury Cross and Horsefair.

The event will feature dancing, stalls, a fairground, refreshments and music.

The usual hobby horse races will run alongside a "mini Olympics" as part of Town Mayor's Sunday, to include skipping, three-legged, football and slow cycling events.



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InBRIEF**Stones named as a 'wonder'**

■ **GREAT ROLLRIGHT:** The Rollright Stones have been named as one of "seven wonders" of the Cotswolds in a public vote.

Hundreds of people voted after the Cotswold Conservation Board launched a survey into visitors' favourite beauty spots. There were 80 nominations to find the seven favourite sites in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The stones are in open countryside north of Chipping Norton. They feature two groups of stones, the Whispering Knights and King's Men, and a single-standing King's Stone.

£650 boost for centre

■ **ADDERBURY:** The Lucy Plackett Activity Centre has been given £650 by broadband provider TalkTalk to replace its main access doors with more secure ones.

Centre chairman Angy Rye said: "The financial support from TalkTalk is fantastic and will enable us to replace our old, insecure, draughty doors and screen with up-to-date steel reinforced doors together with a new screen."

■ Changes have seen Warriner School awarded a glowing report

Benefiting from a stricter rules policy

Headteacher Dr Annabel Kay at The Warriner School in Bloxham



FORGET your calculator, chatter in class twice and you get a warning.

Do it a third time, and you'll land in detention the same day.

The three-strikes behaviour policy at The Warriner School, Bloxham, is among the changes introduced by new headteacher Dr Annabel Kay which has seen the school awarded a glowing Ofsted report.

Dr Kay started at the school in April 2011 and inspectors visited a year later at the end of May 2012. And under the new, stricter regime, the school was rated good in every category – and Dr Kay herself was praised for providing "transformational leadership".

She said: "I am over the moon they have acknowledged how much we have achieved in the year because there has been a lot of change in the school."

"We have had a real focus on what outstanding teaching looks like and spent a year unpicking with our teaching staff what it means to be an outstanding teacher and that really moved teaching onwards."

By Fran Bardsley

Dr Kay said once the changes implemented were fully embedded, the school would be outstanding – and was so confident about where the school was going she said she would be inviting inspectors back in three years rather than waiting for a visit.

She admitted the new detention system was initially unpopular among students but said it had been "hugely effective".

She said: "In maths they were repeatedly arriving without calculators and delaying the lesson."

"Behaviour in class has improved hugely and it has also enabled us to identify repeat offenders who have organisational issues so we can work with them. In the past there was no support for them."

The school was rated good overall at its last inspection in 2007 but Dr Kay said there was always room for improvement.

She said: "Any organisation can plateau and someone coming in with a new pair of eyes moves things forward."

In his report, inspector Simon Rowe said: "The new headteacher has worked demonstrably to improve the quality of teaching, raise achievement and improve behaviour since her arrival."

Among the pupils celebrating the school's results were 14-year-olds Thomas Dence and Charlotte Parsons – both of whom said they would have given the school Ofsted's highest rating.

Thomas said: "Since the new head's come in the school has made a really good improvement."

"I think the detention system has been quite popular among students because it's really useful. It really cuts disruption in lessons now the teacher has a very clear system and set of rules to discipline students."

Charlotte added: "The behaviour rules have had the biggest impact because you don't get as many students disrupting our lessons and you get more work done."



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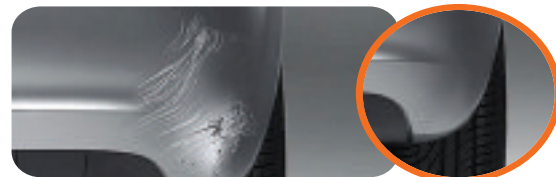
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REPAIRS FULLY GUARANTEED

Fun and spectacle is the name of the game as revellers arrive in their thousands



ABOVE: The Joanne Mills School of Dance performs at St Mary's fete. LEFT: The Van Dunk Brothers from Bread and Butter theatre, Gary Gifford and Gavin Jackson, with George Wattam, aged nine



Seven-year-old Raegan Sellers with 'John Bull' Kim Wattam OX52507

It's party time for the town

ORGANISERS have hailed this year's Banbury's Old Town Party as the "best one yet".

Thousands of people turned out for the party which was spread across Parsons Street, Church Lane and White Lion Walk.

Shop windows were decorated in a Great Britain theme and red, white and blue, and strolling entertainers wowed the crowds.

Among the acts was illusionist Gracie Spoon, balloon artist Funnyballoons, Big John Bull the stilt walker and comedy act the Van Dunk Brothers.

Chairman of the Old Town Party Association Barry Whitehouse said: "It was absolutely wonderful."

"I think it was the best one yet."

"Before the party started there was such an amazing buzz and community feel between the traders, comparing costumes and tweaking window displays, everyone was on board."

By Sam McGregor

"So many people turned up for the party, it was incredible."

Kim Wattam, who took along her son George, nine, and friend's daughter Raegan Sellers, seven, to enjoy the festivities, said: "We really enjoyed it. We were there for a couple of hours."

"We watched the street dancers from the Mill, ate Thai food, the children had balloons made for them, and the street entertainers were amazing, so funny."

Best-dressed shopkeeper went to Ken and Jane Gillett, of Sweet Celebrations, who dressed in Union Flag clothing and even had matching contact lenses.

And in the shop window competition, 20 gold, silver, bronze and highly commended awards were handed out to a host of premises.

They included Rebel Hair and Beauty Salon, who painted a night-time scene of London on its window, Sweet Celebrations which had a cut-out of London Bridge, and Banbury Sewing Centre, which was decorated in an array of red, white and blue.

One of the window display judges, Clair Guyton, from the Banbury Cake which supported the event, said: "Everyone had made a great effort. The window displays looked impressive. The Old Town looked lovely. There was red, white and blue everywhere."

The town also marked Armed Forces Day and nearby St Mary's Church hosted its annual fete.



Connor Elstob, aged four, tries Banbury ATC Christopher Brody's drum before the start of the Armed Forces Day parade through Banbury OX52508

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Centres recognised for their good work

VOLUNTEER centres across Oxfordshire have been jointly recognised for their work.

Cherwell Community and Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau, Volunteer Centre Oxfordshire and Volunteer Link Up have been given the Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation by Volunteering England.

The assessment measures how well a centre delivers its service and its ability to "create an environment within which volunteering can flourish".

Lindsay Watts, manager of Volunteer Centre Oxfordshire – which is part of Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action, said: "We are delighted to have achieved Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation and are proud that Volunteering England believes we are taking quality seriously."

"Working as a partnership with the other volunteer centres in the county has been really useful to share good practice and make sure customers receive a consistent, quality

service." During the last financial year the three centres had more than 3,000 applications to volunteer across Oxfordshire.

Patricia Chirgwin, manager of Volunteer Link Up, said: "The standard expected by Volunteering England is very high, and it is to our credit that the county's volunteer centres offer a professional service to volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations that has been recognised by our national body."

Vera's 23 years with Cancer Research UK Volunteer earns charity honour

By Oliver Evans

DEDICATED Vera Campbell, 89, has been honoured as the longest-serving volunteer at a Banbury charity shop.

The grandmother has been made a Cancer Research UK Honorary Fellow for her 23 years of service to its Parsons Street branch.

Her tenure – the longest in the shop's history – was recognised at the charity's Flame of Hope Awards at London's Hotel Russell.

As she approaches her 90th birthday, Mrs Campbell still gets the bus into town every Monday and Wednesday to help price up items.

Shop manager Carole Clarke nominated her after seeing first-hand her dedication to the shop.

She said: "Vera has shown unwavering support to the charity by giving her time over so many years."

"She keeps telling me it is time for her to stop, but our

shop would be a much duller place without her."

The Banbury OAP said: "I was a little bit surprised to receive an award. I didn't think I had done enough for that."

"I started working at the shop after I saw a notice in the window asking for volunteers and decided to nip in."

"I have always enjoyed doing it and I still do."

She said: "I have been here such a long time, it is a way of life. Next year I will be 90 so I shall see how I get on."

Her son, Peter, said: "The presentation was a special occasion. Mum looked ten years younger when we came home!"

Charity chief executive Harpal Kumar said: "Cancer Research UK has made enormous progress in the fight against cancer. However, we have only been able to do this thanks to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers and supporters – without whom we would not be able to fund outstanding scientists, doctors and nurses."



Award for long-serving Cancer Research UK volunteer Vera Campbell

Sell your house, inmate told

A CAREER criminal, serving nine years in jail for 101 distraction burglaries, has been told to sell his house to compensate the victims.

William Vinson, who targeted elderly people in at least nine counties in the South and Midlands, is believed to have gained almost £150,000 through his "criminal lifestyle".

He was told by Judge Patrick Eccles at Oxford Crown Court that he must pay back more than £110,000 or face a further two-and-a-half years in jail.

He was jailed in January after posing as a new neighbour, a council worker or an electricity inspector to steal from dozens of victims, aged between 79 and 94.

Judge Anthony King called Vinson, "despicable".



William Vinson

The 60-year-old, who at the time was living in Cotswold Terrace, Chipping Norton, was back in court for a hearing under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Of the £110,000, which will partly be realised through the sale of a house in Hill View Crescent, Banbury, almost £30,000 will be distributed as compensation.

Prosecutor Jonathan Stone said

Vinson had accrued "a variety of monies and assets, which constituted something a little in excess of £17,000" along with "unidentified deposits" totalling about £15,000 in a Barclays account and two vehicles valued at a total of just over £2,000.

The vast majority of Vinson's criminal worth is tied up in a mortgage-free house, which he co-owns with his son, Craig.

Vinson's half of the property, bought in August 2010, is worth about £110,000, the court heard.

In all, the defendant's 'benefit figure' of ill-gotten gains was assessed at £148,136.08.

Robert English, defending, said his client could pay back £112,676.46p and asked for six months to sell the house.

Conviction halts police candidate

By Oliver Evans

A CONVICTION for punching children in a row over snowballs has dashed the hopes of the leader of Banbury Town Council of becoming an elected crime commissioner.

Kieron Mallon, pictured, was among potential Conservative candidates hoping to stand as a candidate for the post of Thames Valley Police's first police and crime commissioner in November.

But he stood down after discovering Home Office rules that disqualify those guilty of an offence that could result in prison.

Mr Mallon – also a member of Cherwell District Council – was convicted in October 2001, for two counts of common assault, against two boys aged 12 and 15.

At the time, magistrates heard Mr Mallon had confronted the pair in Banbury the previous December, after one threw a snowball that hit his parked van.

Mr Mallon punched one in the face and forced another to

Town council leader drops bid for major police post

the ground, magistrates heard, leaving one with a bruised jaw and the other with a black eye and a cut. He said he acted in self defence.

Mr Mallon was fined £250 for two assault charges and ordered to pay £100 compensation to each with £160 costs.

Under law, a conviction that results in a fine like this is "spent" after five years.

That means if the councillor was applying for another job, he would not have to declare the offence.

It allows offenders to be rehabilitated and not have their past mistakes affect their entire lives.

But even though he did not receive a jail sentence, common assault carries a possible maximum six months in prison, which means he can't stand for the commissioner role.

Mr Mallon is already a member of Thames Valley Police Authority and is Oxfordshire County Council's cabi-

net member for finance and police.

He pointed to a statement given to another newspaper in which he said: "After reading the new legislation I realised I may not be eligible and decided to withdraw to enable the process to continue unhindered.

"Of course I'm disappointed to pull out now, after reaching the final three for my party in Thames Valley.

"It would have been fantastic for Banbury and Oxfordshire to have a local candidate and potentially win the election."

Mr Mallon had made the final three of the Tory selection process.

Conservative South of England field director Ian Sanderson said: "It was unfortunate that part of the legislation hadn't been spotted earlier.

"He is a well respected councillor. This was something that happened many years ago. His record of service is beyond question."

Labour – which has selected Tim Starkey as its candidate – declined to comment. The Lib Dems have yet to select a candidate.

Clarkson to host Lido auction

JEREMY Clarkson, pictured, is to auction off the chance to appear in the next thriller by best-selling crime writer Mark Billingham

The honour is just one of an array of promises being sold to the highest bidder on Friday, July 13, in aid of Chipping Norton Lido.

The *Top Gear* host, who is a long-term supporter of the lido, will wield the hammer on the night. Other lots include a behind-the-scenes tour at

the Royal Shakespeare Company, an exclusive stay at a holiday cottage in Kinlochbervie, a bottle of House of Commons Champagne signed by The Lido patron David Cameron and the bidder's height in Hook Norton Brewery beer.

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InBRIEF**Alcohol taken in burglary**

■ **BURGLARS** took whiskey and beer from a home in Prescott Close, Banbury, while its occupants were asleep. The incident happened in the early hours of Monday, June 25. PC Bryn Smith said: "It seems the offenders got in through an insecure rear patio window." Contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bus changes

■ **DUE** to roadworks in Middle Barton and Duns Tew next week, buses on Stagecoach route S4, between Oxford and Banbury, will be affected by diversions. From tomorrow until Thursday, July 12, buses will be unable to serve the stops outside the playing fields and Hillside Road in Worton Road and the unmarked stops in Duns Tew at the White Lion pub and the parish church. The nearest alternative stops in Middle Barton are at Barton Garage, in North Street, and just beyond the junction with Middle Barton Road in Main Street at Duns Tew.

Store's walkers

■ **STAFF** from the Banbury's Matalan store are to walk to a sister branch in Stratford-upon-Avon for charity. They will do the 26-mile walk on Saturday for the NSPCC. To sponsor them visit justgiving.com/Emma-Hunt-Matalan.

■ **Singer Charlotte says Cornbury Festival is simply 'amazing'**

Stars pack into musical spectacle

By Tim Hughes

SINGING sensation Charlotte Church, and actor-turned musician Hugh Laurie were among the many celebrities to praise last weekend's spectacular Cornbury Music Festival.

The stars on stage were matched by those in the audience – who included a denim-

clad David Cameron. He was seen dodging the showers with his wife, Samantha, and their children.

Ms Church delighted the crowds by dropping in to the festival, at Great Tew Park, as a special guest. And she described the experience as "amazing".

She said: "It's such a lovely festival and with a great crowd. I was singing all new material, so people didn't know what to expect. But I could see everyone's faces, because it was so bright. Everyone was getting into it."

Mr Laurie, who originally hails from Oxfordshire and who has become a household name through starring roles in comedy *Blackadder* and US hospital drama *House*, was performing at the three-day event with his New Orleans-style jazz group The Copper Bottom Band.

He said: "It has been an incredible thrill."

Other big names to appear at the ninth Cornbury – and the second in its new home at Great Tew – included Jools Holland, Elvis Costello, Macy Gray, blues guitarist Seasick Steve and singer-songwriter James Morrison.

Other celebs spotted taking advantage of the extensive VIP lounge were TV presenter Noel Edmonds, comedian Dom Joly, *Countryfile* presenters John Craven and Adam Henson, former Blur bassist-turned cheesemaker Alex James, and *Holby City* actress Tina Hobley.

Festival director Hugh Phillimore said: "I'm thrilled. The weather was a bit of a drag but everyone had a good time."

"The line-up was our best yet. Elvis Costello was staggering."

He added: "Everyone loves the site at Great Tew. It feels like being in the real countryside and the locals have embraced it."



Music fans pack into Great Tew Park for the last weekend's Cornbury Festival



Alison Moyet performs on the Song Bird stage



Charlotte Church, above. Pixie Lott performing on the main stage, below. James Morrison, left, is applauded



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Advertisement Feature

BANBURY IN BLOOM



Time is running out for gardeners who want to enter this year's Banbury in Bloom competition.

The closing date for entries is July 20 – and competition organisers Banbury Town Council are issuing a reminder that the deadline is just a couple of

weeks away.

Fears that the hosepipe ban would restrict the number of entries this year have been dispelled and entry forms have been issued to a number of people.



Some forms have not yet been returned and the council is hoping that a reminder will prompt people to get their entries in.

The popular annual competition

encourages green-fingered residents and business people to decorate their homes and work premises with colourful floral displays.

This year, the competition has a royal diamond jubilee theme.

Entries will be judged from the third week of July by a panel of experts and trophies will be presented to the winners of the eight categories.

The event was officially launched in May when



the Banbury in Bloom Working Party and competition sponsors called on householders and business people to 'say it with flowers' and make their homes and workplaces colourful attractions.

In addition to special prizes for designs commemorating the diamond jubilee – for gardens and basket or container entries – an additional category has been included with an award for the best newcomer to the event.

Categories for children include the tallest sunflower and the colouring poster competition.

Cllr Nick Harrison, chairman of Banbury in Bloom, said: "This annual competition is the town council's way of encouraging and rewarding people who spend many hours making their homes and workplaces look attractive.

"The closing date for floral entries is July 20 with sunflower and colouring poster entries closing on August 17 – and we're issuing this reminder because we don't want people to miss out."

Winners will receive their prizes at a presentation in September.



Banbury Town Council
01295 250340



BANBURY
IN BLOOM

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- ☐ Best Jubilee Garden

- ☐ Tallest Sunflower, under 16 yrs
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- ☐ Best Kept Hanging Baskets/Containers

- ☐ Colouring Poster, 5yrs and under
- ☐ Best Kept Large Garden
- ☐ Best Kept Business Premises

Name Address OX16
Telephone No. Age (Sunflower Category Only)

Open to all residents with an OX16 postcode. Closing date 20th July. Tallest Sunflower and Colouring Poster categories close 17th August. Access required for Best Kept Back Garden entries. Posters can be downloaded from www.banbury.gov.uk

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InBRIEF**MP's memories**

■ **FORMER** Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Peter Hain spoke about his campaign against apartheid South Africa during a visit to Banbury. The Labour MP spoke at an event organised by Banbury Constituency Labour Party at The Cornhill Centre on Wednesday of last week.

■ Report reveals plans as Government reduces funding by 20 per cent

350 jobs to go as police face £55m of cutbacks

By Rhianne Pope

AROUND 360 jobs will be lost at Thames Valley Police as the force tries to save £55m by March 2015.

A report into police cuts, published this week by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, reveals about 120 of these will be police officers.

It comes as reduced hours at police stations around the county were introduced on Monday.

The report, entitled Policing in Austerity: One Year On, says Thames Valley Police aims to cut 120 of its 4,430 officers by 2015.

It will also lose about 50 of its 500 PCSOs and about 200 other staff members from its 3,000-strong workforce. All figures in the report were rounded to the nearest ten.

The cuts are in response to the Government's 20 per cent funding cut to the police service by 2015, announced in March last year.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton reassured councillors in April last year that "boots on the ground" would not drop, despite the cuts.

The new report confirmed that around 90 per cent of Thames

Valley Police's officers would be in frontline roles by 2015, compared to 81 per cent now.

There are currently 3,590 officers in frontline roles.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern region, Zoe Billingham, said: "Thames Valley Police has a history of bringing down costs while increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.

"As a result, it is in a good position to achieve its savings target by 2015 – and may even exceed it."

There was an 11 per cent drop in recorded crimes in the Thames Valley between December 2010 and December 2011. Overall victim satisfaction was 85 per cent.

Thames Valley Police is also collaborating with Hampshire Constabulary on a number of roles, including firearms officers and police dogs.

The reduced opening hours were introduced this week at stations around the county in a bid to save £600,000.

The reductions will hit at Bicester, Cowley, Wallingford, Witney, Didcot and Wantage.



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Paul Harson, Matt Wood, Pete Thompson, Helen Smith, Nick Masson, Paul Franklin, Steve Preece, Yaz Davies and Peter Swift all set for their charity walk

OX52759

'A-dressing' a need

THIS group of men, about to tackle a sponsored walk dressed in drag, never looked so good.

The 15 friends, all regulars at the Blackburn Inn in Croughton, raised nearly £800 for Katharine House Hospice on Saturday.

Paul Franklin, 44, said: "Unfortunately it was my idea to dress up. I did a 'drag walk' a few years ago and thought it would be a good idea this time too.

"Everyone was in very

good spirits. It rained towards the end of the day but we plodded on and made it to our destination."

The men walked from Croughton to Turnweston and Brackley, stopping at pubs along the way.

Mr Franklin said: "It was a good day and we managed to raise quite a bit for charity."

The Katharine House Hospice in Adderbury provides care and support for people with life-threatening or life-changing illnesses.

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OUR POLICY

The *Banbury Cake* is fully independent of political parties and Government. We aim to provide our readers with a fair, accurate and balanced news and information service. We adhere to the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice.

Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.



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■ Charity is looking for more volunteers to help out

Helping youngsters struggling to read



ARCh volunteer Lawrence Wyatt

AUTHOR Roz Oates dreams of writing the perfect story for children. Now she is combining her research for future books with helping some of the county's young, struggling readers.

Despite establishing a publishing career, 33-year-old Miss Oates says her most rewarding success to date has been becoming a volunteer for the reading charity ARCh.

ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children), with its 200 volunteers across the county, helps 600 children in 90 primary schools.

Miss Oates said: "I started reading with three little boys at my local school just before half term. It has been so revealing and inspiring.

"One of the little boys has a sight problem, another has

By Debbie Waite

confidence issues and the third really dislikes fiction, but loves factual books. I have relished the challenge of finding books that they will love and want to read.

"I've been really surprised by how touching it can be to see children who are struggling with reading, begin to make progress. And to see their faces light up when they get the grasp of a paragraph."

Meanwhile, Lawrence Wyatt, 75, from Bodicote, has been a volunteer at William Morris Primary for nine years.

A retired chemical company manager, Mr Wyatt said: "I have come to realise that most children are afraid of

books with big chapters – they seem to think they are too 'grown-up' for them. But smaller story books with small chapters make them realise they are not scary – I am learning all the time along with the children."

ARCh founder Jane Rendle said: "ARCh would not exist without its volunteers. We are so lucky to have so many people willing to give their time to share their love of reading.

"But we would love even more volunteers – we have a list of around 20 schools waiting for more volunteers and we know there are many more pupils out there who would benefit from our help."

For details, call: 01869 320380 or visit: archoxfordshire.org.uk

InBRIEF

Get ready for big cook-off

■ **BANBURY:** Cooking fans are being sought to take part in a *Ready Steady Cook*-style competition at the inaugural Banbury Food Fair on Sunday, August 19.

Six people will be put to a public vote for three challenges as part of the Market Place event, organised by Banbury Town Council.

The event will include cookery workshops and food from local producers.

The "Banbury Cook Off" event is open to those aged 18 and over. To enter call Ann Sewell on 01295 250340 or email Ann.sewell@banbury.gov.uk

Help Dogs for the Disabled

■ **BANBURY:** Dogs for the Disabled is seeking volunteers. The Banbury charity – which provides assistance dogs – is looking for people to organise and attend fundraising events.

For information call Jane Sargent on 01295 252600, email jane.sargent@dogsforthedisabled.org or call 01295 252600.

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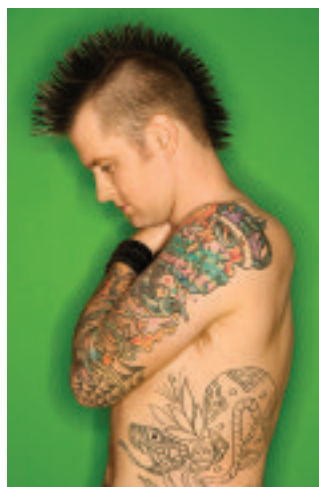
and gents, this talented artist, offers a bespoke service is a quiet location, away from the hustle and bustle of the High Street. The peaceful environment helps to stimulate creative energy and often means that your appointment will be undisturbed. Paula knows how important it is to make her clients feel comfortable and relaxed and her "appointment only" ethos ensures this happens.

Before each tattoo is started, there will be a full consultation. There is no hurry to get you in and out at Ink Lined To Colour. This piece of art will be with you for the rest of your life so your consultation gives you time to plan something perfect.

Paula is happy to work with an image you have supplied, or for those without an idea of how to express in ink what is going on in their mind, the bespoke service offers a chance for you to work together on your tattoo.

With plenty of free parking and great customer service – Ink Lined To Colour is the perfect place to have your tattoo.

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Bring Your Family Tree To Life

Ever wondered about where you came from? Often the time needed to source accurate information regarding our family tree puts us off, and that is why there are local genealogists that can help you find all the answers you are looking for.



Fiona Morris has had an interest in Genealogy for several years and has helped her family and friends understand a bit more about their family tree and has given them a little more of a sense of identity. Recent research has enabled Fiona to combine her other interest with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, when finding ancestors service records who fought in World War I.

Genealogical research is a complex process that uses birth, death, marriage and local government information to demonstrate kinship. Conclusions are reached based on the information within such sources and the evidence that can be drawn from that information. Genealogist such as Fiona can discover your immediate maternal and paternal ancestors, relating up to five generations and beyond. All evidence uncovered is then assembled to create your own family history, which Fiona presents within a Pedigree Chart.

To find out more about your family history contact Fiona Morris on 01295 266209 (after 7pm). Fiona will be able to give you more information of research plans and costs

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MIND, BODY & SOUL

Banbury hairdressers secure TWO places on national Artistic Team Introducing the NEW La Biosthetique UK Artistic Team

La Biosthetique UK HQ, Spring 2012

Not just one but TWO hair professionals from Ekko in Banbury beat off stiff national competition to win their place on the UK Artistic Team for luxury European hair care brand La Biosthetique. The auditions for the UK Artistic Team took a day of gruelling trade tests, quizzes, panel interviews and presentations with UK Creative Director Beverley Bates, international educators and members of the press. Hairdressers Julia Williams and James Boswell from Ekko secured TWO places out of just six available and it didn't even help that their boss Beverley Bates is the UK Creative Director as each

place was won by unanimous votes from ALL the judges. Julia and James were selected from over 20 applicants, all eager to secure a slot on the Artistic Team of one of the UK's fastest growing luxury hair care brands. The NEW team includes cut and colour specialists from salons across the UK, giving fresh energy and direction to shaping La Biosthetique's creative future. Julia and James were selected for their vision and talent and will be involved in creating and performing live at national shows and host a raft of intensive education seminars all over the country. They will be supporting La Biosthetique's high quality prescriptive hair care message and inspiring other salons to create the gorgeous cuts and colours for which they have become known.

Julia Williams says "It was a tough day, especially as we were auditioning in front of our boss! But at Ekko we have a very high standard and I was confident I could make an impact. I am really looking

forward to the year ahead. Our clients have seen incredible results with these amazing products and I'm proud to be a part of the Artistic Team."

James Boswell says "I was quite nervous, especially as I was there with my boss but I was delighted to be selected and we will be telling all our clients about our amazing experiences throughout the year. I can't wait!"

Beverley Bates says "I was nervous for my team members but I wanted to make sure they were selected on their own merit and to win two places just made me so proud."

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Left to right: Beverley Bates, Salon Owner, Julia Williams, James Boswell all from Ekko in Banbury.

Samaritans Raise Awareness For Their 24/7 Commitment To Those In Need

On the 24th July, Samaritan offices up and down the country celebrate Samaritan Awareness Day. The date is specially chosen to raise awareness that we have volunteers waiting for your call 24/7!

At Samaritans, all members of the local branches give their time to help those in despair; to fundraise, publicize and keep the branch up and running for no wage. We are trained to listen to callers, not to judge or give advice, but to be there for those who feel they cannot cope. We also answer emails and text messages as some may find it easier to converse this way.

Being a Samaritan can sometimes be a very difficult job, especially if they also have families to care for and paid jobs to attend. The calls received can also be hard to listen to, however we have a very good support network within the Samaritans, and all care for each other as well as the callers.

We are often asked by callers why we became Samaritans.

Unfortunately we cannot speak about ourselves whilst on a call, as we are there to hear the caller's story, not to tell our own. What can be said is that perhaps the Samaritan you are speaking to has also lost a child, or been through a divorce, has maybe tried to take their own life before, or helped a friend or relative who has been in a similar situation. The Samaritan may just be a good listener, or someone who enjoys the feeling of giving someone who can see absolutely no way forward, a gentle nudge towards a brighter outlook.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us continue helping others, whether by dealing directly with callers, or simply by giving an hour to help collect some money. It is the most rewarding feeling to feel you may have saved a life.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact us on 08705 62 72 82 or alternatively by email at volunteering@samaritans.org. Thank you.

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Independent Traders



Working for yourself is just the job

TODAY is Independents' Day and unique shops and traders are flying the flag for local retailers across the county to support diversity on our high streets

We can all moan that our town shopping centres are becoming carbon copies of each other, with endless chains of the same stores offering the same items for sale.

Fortunately in Oxford, Banbury, Witney, Abingdon and Wantage – in fact all the county's major towns – we are blessed with a stunning array of independents, all offering special goods and services and genuine customer care.

But, as the saying goes, if you don't use them you'll lose them – which is why people across the region are being encouraged to make an extra special effort today to buy at least one item from their local, independent shop to celebrate Independents' Day 2012. It's about championing diversity on the high street and recognising the skills behind the shopfront. Your high street needs you

Today's national campaign, organised by Skillsmart Retail and the National Skills Academy for Retail, champions the local retailers who make the UK's villages, towns and cities so special.

With over 160,000 independent retailers making up 92 per cent of all retail businesses in the UK, their importance to local economies as well as their contribution to a location's identity and community is unrivalled.

Jane Rexworthy, Head of the National Skills Academy for Retail said: "We are delighted to lead this campaign to celebrate



■ Chris Robinson

diversity in retail. Independents' Day aims to highlight the huge range of skills successful independent retailers need to make our towns and cities such interesting and varied places to visit and shop.

"The National Skills Academy for Retail offers a wide range of support directly to retailers to help them get ahead. It's essential independent retailers understand that to compete today they have to have the best people as well as products, and that training and development can really make a difference."

Despite the long hours and responsibilities of running their own businesses three independent traders in Banbury would not change a thing.

Working for themselves, answering to no-one and making their own decisions, whether right or wrong, are benefits of being independent and sometimes second to making money.

Chris Robinson, director of Aynho Wharf Caravans, Station Road, Aynho Wharf, agrees and enjoys the long hours he has spent setting up the company



■ Dave Earle

this year. Within the space of four months of opening the fledgling company it is now the county's authorised supplier of caravan and motorhome industry giants Truma and Kronigs.

The 46-year-old has spent years in the caravanning and says the new business is aimed at both the new and second hand caravan and motorhome markets as well as selling accessories for vehicles up to 30-years-old. It also has a workshop to repair ailing vehicles.

But one of his main aims is to bring a younger generation into the caravanning business and has a 16-year-old apprentice who is studying business and management course with Cherwell College.

"I would love to take others on so there is a future for caravanning by training up the younger generations," Mr Robinson said.

Paul Clarke opened his own garage named after him in Cherwell Street, Banbury, Oxon., when he was made redundant after eight years on the road with the AA.

Opening up in the middle of a recession has meant the 47-year-old relies on word of mouth advertising, a good service, trust and plain hard graft.

"It's been hard," admits Mr Clarke. But the director and mechanic would not go back to work for anyone else again.

"I never expected it to be easy to start with, but we are growing year on year which is good news."

But the father-of-three said his honest approach sees customers recommend him.

"Not often people come here and then go somewhere else."

"People want to go somewhere they trust."

"You have got to do the job correctly and to gain that trust means a lot to me, but it also takes a bit of time to build up."

Dave Earle set up Spit 'n Sawdust gym in 2004 and devotes most of his waking days to the multi purpose North Bar Street gym which has a heavy influence on boxing.

He said wouldn't change his life which has seen him win national boxing and kick boxing titles, and help people get fit and lose weight

"It isn't about the money," Mr Earle said. "It's about helping people."

Whether it's helping someone get fit or lose weight or give younger people who are starting to lose their way – his dedication and commitment is key.

He said one of his proudest achievements has been helping one young man who was starting to get into trouble with the authorities and making the wrong lifestyle choices to focus on boxing to the point where he became a national champion and now a model.

"He's done alright now," said a proud Mr Earle.

The gym, with exercise studio, boxing and boxercise classes as well as aerobics and personal training is open every day.

To stay up to date with all the activities, you can follow the campaign on Twitter @Retail_IndieDay, facebook.com/independentsday or on the news section of www.retailindieday.com



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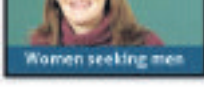
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LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Thoughtful Oxford female, 41, 5'5", medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427 or send a text to 80360

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Curvy, outgoing Oxford female, 42, 5'8", works in health care, enjoys meals out, the outdoors and family life, would like to meet a man, to share good times with me. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123624

STARTING FRESH Separated, caring Witney woman, 44, honest, GSOH, trustworthy, enjoys family life, swimming, music, theatre, cinema and walks, seeking a similar man, kind and sincere, for dates & laughs. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116588 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360

OUR MOMENT Lovely, hard-working, petite woman, 48, likes socialising, city pubs, eating out, seeks similar guy, for fun, laughter & hopefully more. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 102616

HEADLINE NEWS Affectionate and kind-hearted Chipping Norton female, 50, looking for a honest, caring kind guy 40-55, who is fun to be with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122645 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Loving, bubbly female, 55, kind, honest, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

HEADLINE NEWS Sincere, reliable Wiltshire lady, 56, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable male, for company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO START AFRESH Black, caring, African Cypriot lady, 52, likes outdoors, gardening, cooking and holidays, 50-70 for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117888 or send a text to 80360

JUST THE TWO OF US Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, cosy times and more, seeking a friend and soul mate, to go ahead with me in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 463551 or send a text to 80360

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

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Oxford widow, 57, 5'3", blue-eyes, socialising, walking my dogs, theatre, eating out & family life, seeking a decent man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123053 or send a text to 80360

SHARE THE JOURNEY Attractive, outgoing Abingdon female, 58, slim-build, likes cinema, theatre, country walks, would like to meet a honest, fun-loving, caring man, for a possible lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123964 or send a text to 80360

FACING FORWARD Young at heart, attractive Abingdon woman, 59, GSOH, family orientated, active, enjoys keeping fit and animals, searching for a similar man, fun, honest and genuine, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125994

Genuine and Caring Oxfordshire widow, 60, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

OVER THE MOON Oxfordshire widow, 60, 5'6", slender, dark hair, sociable and caring, well-travelled and attractive, seeking a guy who is caring, professional and considerate. Could you be the one? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 467516

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

STRICTLY BALLROOM Dance-loving lady, 61, 5'6", searching for a man, 5'10"+, N/5, who can jive, for friendship and ballroom dancing. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111203

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 61, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544 or send a text to 80360

BE YOURSELF Cuddly, bubbly, caring Kidlington widow, 62, enjoys days out, country walks, dining and theatre, searching for an interesting, honest, non-smoking man, with GSOH, to add a little sparkle to life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126022 or send a text to 80360

KNOW WHAT MATTERS Bubbly, cultured, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 63, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversations and to laugh together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115447 or send a text to 80360

FINALLY FOUND YOU Friendly, attractive, petite Wantage lady, 63, enjoys the arts, history, music and places of interest, looking for that special man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123293

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112241 or send a text to 80360

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE Blue-eyed Oxfordshire widow, 65, loves walks, reading, films, gardening and family life, searching for a nice gent, to share a warm and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 105525

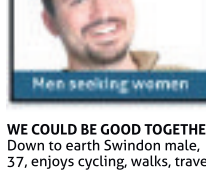
NEW IN TOWN Easygoing, slim woman, 65, 5'6", blonde, likes jazz, live shows, reading and walks, seeks down-2-earth male, for genuine friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100721

LEADING TO MORE? Genuine, happy Banbury woman, 66, GSOH, retired, widow, enjoys cats, cinema, theatre, visiting places, meals out, gardening, holidays, diy and dancing, wlm a male companion, caring and honest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121137 or send a text to 80360

DOWN TO EARTH Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 70, slim/medium build, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses and cuddles, looking for a non-smoking, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288 or send a text to 80360

GREAT COMPANIONS Wiltshire widow, 72, likes music, theatre, travel and more, searching an easygoing gent, for companionship, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104917 or send a text to 80360

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME Intelligent, elegant, warm-hearted Banbury lady, early 80s, looking to meet a like-minded, successful companion, who enjoys cultural activities, keeping active and trying new things. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121812



WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 38, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126151 or send a text to 80360

LOTS OF GET UP AND GO Sociable, friendly Abingdon male, 40, GSOH, active, 5'10", blonde, likes sport, socialising, nice pubs, walks and travel, seeking a caring, attractive and bubbly female, for love and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126151 or send a text to 80360

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 46, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114348 or send a text to 80360

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL Friendly Witney male, 47, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115039 or send a text to 80360

THIS TIME Warm and easygoing Wallingford male, 49, 6ft, 13st, into sport, dining and more, searching for a loving woman, for romantic times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125941 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

TAKE A TRIP WITH ME Open minded Oxford guy, 50, likes all kinds of music, reading, visiting galleries, going to the cinema, eating out, walking and good conversation, wlm a female to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115321 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Easygoing, active Kidlington male, 51, likes meals out, cinema, country walks and all the things couples do together, looking for that special female, to spend some quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479 or send a text to 80360

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THAT WONDERFUL FEELING Laid back, sporty Woodstock male, 41, likes family life, nights in & out, having a laugh, seeks warm hearted easygoing female, for good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114209 or send a text to 80360

ROMANCE IS ALIVE Happy go lucky male, 45, no-ties, likes walking my dog, gardening, watching football and meals out, seeking an easygoing female, 40-50, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124415 or send a text to 80360

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THE BEST IS YET TO BE Caring, romantic Bicester male, 59, works full-times, loves weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady 48-55 to share life and love with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118655

SIMILAR IDEAS Down-to-earth Swindon male, 52, enjoys swimming, walks, cinema and dining, searching for a loving female, for a steady relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125598 or send a text to 80360

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LOADS OF LOVE TO GIVE Affectionate Wallingford male, 54, 5'8", enjoys country walks, walking my dogs, swimming, cinema, would like to meet a nice lady to share my life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122616 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young at heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632

BETTER WITH COMPANY Easygoing 60yr old, speaks a little bit of Spanish, enjoys walking my dog, eating out and weekends away, seeking a Spanish princess, to enjoy company together. Banbury. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126114 or send a text to 80360

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BRING THE SPARKLE BACK Clean-shaven Thame male, 67, 6', medium-build, own bungalow, would like to meet a sociable man, who wishes to enjoy good times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 119935

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 68, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

REACH OUT YOUR HAND Mature Wallingford male, 69, fair-hair, blue-eyes, medium-build, non-smoker, would like to meet a black guy for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122634

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Fit, clean-shaven Thame gentleman, 67, easygoing, 6ft, active, enjoys gardening, golf, diy and the outdoors, seeking a similar lady, affectionate and fun, for friendship and hopefully love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126173

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BETTER WITH COMPANY Tactile male, 61, 5'7", wears glasses, likes days out, country walks, evening life, looking for a young lady, 50-60, to enjoy these good times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104324 or send a text to 80360

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LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 68, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

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OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Fit, clean-shaven Thame gentleman, 67, easygoing, 6ft, active, enjoys gardening, golf, diy and the outdoors, seeking a similar lady, affectionate and fun, for friendship and hopefully love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126173

THE BEST IS YET TO BE Caring, romantic Bicester male, 59, works full-times, loves weekend away, car boot sales and walking, looking for a lady 48-55 to share life and love with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118655

SIMILAR IDEAS Down-to-earth Swindon male, 52, enjoys swimming, walks, cinema and dining, searching for a loving female, for a steady relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125598 or send a text to 80360

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 53, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and 1, would like to meet a female, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

NICE DAYS AHEAD Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 70, 5'9", enjoys travel, pub meal and car boot sales, would like to meet a nice non-smoking lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116366 or send a text to 80360

SOUL TO SOUL Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'6", enjoys pubs, meals, car boot sales, wlm charming female, to share quality times. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937



ME TIME Divorced Swindon mum, 37, searching for straight female friends, for drinks, meals, shopping, chats, holidays and getting out more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 459673

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360

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CakeLeisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure

Illustrating folk pride of morris

By Liz Nicholls

Even the least patriotic among us could not fail to notice the bounty of Britishness this year has served up.

And with the flags flapping after the Jubilee weekend and the nation on its marks for London 2012, this nation's identity is given a new twist by a Banbury artist.

Rebecca Lee, 26, is an artist, illustrator and freelance theatre designer whose innovative work with the Oxford Playhouse, Oxfordshire Theatre Company and Cherwell Theatre Company has cast a spell on audiences. Also – and most importantly – she is a morris dancer with the Adderbury side Sharp and Blunt.

Combining all her talents has resulted in a patriotic folk collection 'The streets... have bells on!' which is on display at The Mill Arts Centre Gallery this month, culminating in a meet-the-artist event this Sunday (July 8).

Rebecca said: "Oscar Wilde reportedly once said that you should try anything once, except of course Morris dancing. Now whilst I love old history for all he has done for literary history and witty anecdotes alike it must be known: I tried it Oscar! What's more, I even liked it! Morris dancing is unique,



it's ours and it is today, as it has always been, Great British fun!"

Rebecca's art promises a glimpse of the British folk scene from a pop art and urban art viewpoint with a dash of cultural satire. And she is passionate about this celebration of cultural identity. "These are the streets of today, our streets and around these parts they have bells on!" adds Rebecca.

"This is the year where so much tradition and national pride is being promoted throughout Britain but amidst all the hype our roots, our 'folk' culture still seems to remain somewhat under-championed.

"This mill brings to the fore the tongue-in-cheek face of modern day morris while invoking a sincere sense of national folk pride."

Sunday's exhibition finale from 12.30pm, features live music from the town's own Sheena McCormack and Sandra Shallis. There are also a permanent series of life-size wall art paintings accompanying the exhibition which can be seen in the music room of the Bell Inn at Adderbury (Rebecca's friendly local).

The Mill Arts Centre Gallery is open Monday to Friday 9am–8pm, Saturday 10am–8pm and Sunday 12.30pm–5pm.



MOVING: Rebecca's works *Jig For Victory* and, right, *Cultural Defense*. Left: Rebecca, centre, dancing with Sharp and Blunt



Catch Edinburgh comedians

IF Edinburgh is a bit of a trek, you can catch some of the festival's best stand-up comedy before it heads up north.

On Friday (July 6), Radio 1 DJ and comedian Tom Deacon and British sketch duo Jigsaw arrive at Chipping Norton Theatre.

On Saturday (July 7) comedian Richard Herring and writer/comedian Catie Wilkins are on the bill at Banbury's Mil Theatre.

"It's a real coup to get performers of this quality to offer Banbury their material before it goes live in Edinburgh," said The Mill's programme manager Deborah Clarke.

Tom Deacon makes his first visit to north Oxfordshire bringing his new Deaconator show. A multi-talented man who has appeared on *The Rob Brydon Show*, he is an accomplished radio DJ and is reputed to be one of the

hottest young stand-ups on the circuit. He won the Chortle Student Comedian Award in 2007 and took part in Edinburgh Festival's longest-running comedy show, *The Comedy Zone*, in 2008.

Jigsaw is a trio of sharp-witted and highly talented writers and comedians presenting a show packed with inventive ideas in sketch form.

Their work has been described as ranging from witty to crude, surreal and silly but always naturally funny and of consistently high quality.

Richard Herring's spot is a discussion about that infamous item of male anatomy and its multifarious uses – expect a risqué evening! You may have seen him on *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* or *Have I Got News For You*. He describes himself as a

short, middle-class, middle-aged comedian and writer who has appeared at nearly every Edinburgh Fringe since 1987.

Catie Wilkins' credits include *Hotel Trubble*, *The News Quiz*, *The Athiests' Guide to Christmas* and *Stand-Up Put Downs*.

The winner of many awards, she was listed as one of the top ten stand-ups to catch in 2011.

Tom Deacon & Jigsaw at Chipping Norton Theatre on July 6, 7.45pm. Call 01608 642 350.

Richard Herring & Catie Wilkins Sat July 7, 8pm The Mill. Call 01295 279002.



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A web of intrigue

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (12A, 136 mins): Spider-Man now has two: Sam Raimi's action-packed 2002 blockbuster and this emotionally richer, though equally exhilarating opening chapter, directed with verve by Marc Webb.

Rebooting the franchise ten years after Tobey Maguire donned the red and blue skin-tight suit as the eponymous web-slinger seems premature.

The Amazing Spider-Man recounts the same origins story, albeit without cackling arch-nemesis Green Goblin or love interest Mary Jane.

But technology has advanced in gargantuan bounds over the past decade and Webb's film soars in the action sequences, some in first-person perspective to take full advantage of the 3D format.

The chameleonic Andrew Garfield tugs the heartstrings as a teenager wrestling with a destiny he never asked for and screen chemistry with Emma Stone sizzles. It's no surprise they are reportedly dating off-screen.

What *The Amazing Spider-Man* lacks is a scenery-chewing villain or that one defining moment that lingers in the memory – like the upside-down kiss or Uncle Ben intoning solemnly, "With great power comes great responsibility".

The Amazing Spider-Man is a terrifically entertaining refurbishment of the Marvel Comics superhero, blessed with an appealing mix of high-octane action and humour.



A scene from *The Amazing Spider-Man*

Picture: PA Photo/Sony Pictures Releasing

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY

Abingdon Arms, High Street,
Beckley: Far From Home – local Irish band. 9pm. Free admission. 01865 351311.

The Musketeer, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury: Laurence. Expect to hear a diverse mixture of songs from soul and motown to modern day. 9pm. Free admission. 07925 154921.

The Wheatsheaf, 68 George Road, Banbury: Blues, jazz and acoustic social night, with local musicians. 8pm. Free admission. 01295 266525.

SATURDAY

Deddington Church, Church Street, Deddington: Piano recital. Programme: Schubert – Wanderer Fantasie Ravel – Pavane Debussy – Reverie, Claire de Lune, Reflets dans Leau. Chopin – Polonaise in F sharp Minor, Nocturne in F sharp Major. Skryabin – 5th Sonata. 7.30pm. £12, concession £10. 01869 338017 and 01295 753752.

General Foods Sports and Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Soul Club. An evening of great Soul music – Northern Soul, R&B, Crossover and Motown. All played on original vinyl records by resident DJ's Charlie Mc, Steve and Tom. Two special Guest DJ's on the night. Large sprung wooden dance floor, 250 capacity and plenty of free parking. 8pm.

£5. 07943 793417.

The Wheatsheaf, 68 George Road, Banbury: The Burning Hot Blues. 8pm. Local, well-known band. There will be a wine-tasting too. Free admission. 01295 266525.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: Ice Age – Continental Drift, U, Sat-Sun, Wed 12pm, Sat-Sun 4.45pm; (3-D) Sat-Sun 2.30, 7.30pm. The Amazing Spiderman, 12A, Mon-Thu 2, 5pm, Fri 3, 6pm, daily 9.15pm; (3-D) Fri-Mon 2, 5.15, 8.30pm. Odeon Kids: Journey 2 The Mysterious Island, PG, Sat-Sun 11am*. Senior Screen: This Means War, 12A, Wed 10.45am* (audio-described). (NB: cinema may refuse admission to guests arriving after the feature has started.) Box office: 0871 224 4007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: What To Expect When You're Expecting, Sat 7.30pm. Moonrise Kingdom, 12A, Sun 7.30pm. Men In Black III, PG, Wed 7.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

Theatre

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jul 6, *Tom Deacon*. Edinburgh comedy preview. Joined by Jigsaw, a silly, smart threesome of rising stars in British sketch comedy. £10. 7.45pm.

Jul 10, *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*. 6.30pm (not 7.30pm as advertised elsewhere). Holy Trinity School presents. £7.

Box office: 01608 642350.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:

Jul 6, *Jive Talkin' – The Bee Gees Story*. £18.50. 7.30pm.

Jul 9-14, *Dreamboats and Petticoats*. Direct from the West End the new musical featuring hit songs from the rock 'n' roll era. 7.30pm, matinees Wed and Sat 2.30pm. £13.50-£29.50.

Box office: 0844 847 1585 and 1588

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:

Jul 6-8, *The Aeneid – The Journey*. A new adaptation by RSC Associate Joanne Pearce, covering the first six books of Virgil's epic poem. With large-scale puppets, designs by the National Theatres Linbury Prize finalist, Jacob Hughes, and actors from Magdalen College School. Part of the MCS Arts Festival. Tickets from Tickets Oxford. Fri-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 6.30pm. £12, concession £10.

Jul 9-13, *Educating Rita*, by Willy Russell. Stars Matthew Kelly and Claire Sweeney. £12-£27. Mon-Thu and Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, matinees Thu and Sat 2.30pm. The Menier Chocolate Factory and Theatre Royal Bath production. Box office: 01865 305305.

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Queens Theatre, London

Wednesday 3rd October JE158 Stalls seats £59.50

Disney on Ice

Passport to Adventure

Sunday 4th November NIA Birmingham

JE155 Adult £38 Child £37

Starlight Express

New Theatre, Oxford

Thursday 13th December JE156 Stalls seats £45.50

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Yes, every week in the Banbury Cake we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.

And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *The Amazing Spider-Man*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horse Fair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ What date was the original *Spiderman* released?

- a. 2002?
- b. 2003?
- c. 2001?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Network rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

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Oxfordshire champions' quest for a Lord's final comes to an end

Tew dreams over

Dave Powles, who top-scored for Great Tew with 31



GREAT & Little Tew's hopes of an extended run through to a final at Lord's were ended in decisive fashion on Sunday.

The Oxfordshire champions crashed by seven wickets away to Gloucestershire side Apperley in the first national round.

"It was very disappointing," said Tew skipper Andy Harris.

"We just didn't turn up."

Choosing to bat first on a dry pitch that

took spin from the start, Tew were dismissed for 125 in the last of their 40 overs.

Apart from Dave Powles, who made a brisk 31, the early Tew batsmen failed.

Harris and Ian Bryan had to rebuild the innings against some tidy off-spin from Apperley skipper Rowan Leeke, who conceded only seven runs in his nine overs.

At 96-9, Tew seemed doomed, but an enterprising unbeaten 29 from Liam Manley in a last-wicket stand with Marcus Jeacock, lifted them to 125.

However, this was some 40 runs short of what Tew felt would be competitive.

Despite this, Tew were still in the hunt, when Apperley, who play in the West of England Premier League, slipped to 47-3.

But brothers Hugh and Rowan Leeke saw their side home with ten overs and seven wickets to spare to end Tew's dream in their first match at this stage for more than 25 years.

SCOREBOARD

GREAT & LITTLE TEW

H Smith c Starost b Means	.....0
J White lbw b R Leeke	.....9
D Powles c Smith b Starost	.....31
E Gross b Leeke	.....0
A Hubbert c MacPherson b	.....4
R Leeke	.....4
R Shurmer c MacPherson	.....1
b H Leeke	.....18
A Harris c H Leeke b Means	.....10
I Bryan b Starost	.....29
L Manley not out	.....2
J Garrett run out	.....2
M Jeacock run out	.....19
Extras	.....125
Total (all out, 39.5 ovs)	.....125
Fall: 1-0, 2-33, 3-33, 4-42, 5-45,	

6-59, 7-90, 8-90, 9-96.

Bowling: Means 9-1-32-2, Smith 5-0-34-0, R Leeke 9-5-7-3, H Leeke 9-3-17-1, Starost 7.5-2-35-2.

APPERLEY

R Birch b Bryan	.....13
L Smith c Bryan b Garrett	.....9
T Rock c Hubbert b Brian	.....21
H Leeke not out	.....38
R Leeke not out	.....33
Extras	.....14
Total (8 wickets, 29.4 ovs)	.....128
Fall: 1-22, 2-35, 3-47	
Bowling: White 4-0-30-0, Bryan 9-0-39-2, Garrett 7-1-16-1, Shurmer 4-0-1-0, Manley 4-0-16-0, Harris 1-0-5-0, Gross 0.4-0-9-0.	

Woman driver in F1 crash

A FEMALE racing driver for the Banbury-based Marussia F1 team was fighting for her life after a crash at a test track.

Test driver Maria de Villota was taken to hospital after her car collided with a lorry at Duxford airfield on Tuesday morning.

The accident is said to have happened at low speed after Villota pulled off the track into the pits.

Chris Mann, *Drivetime* presenter on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, witnessed the accident.

He said: "She got into the car, fired it up and did a test run at probably about 200mph in the rain.

"The car was slightly misfiring but there didn't seem to be any concerns.

"She came back into the pits. She slowed down – but then suddenly, inexplicably, accelerated through the crowd and smashed into the side of a truck.

"The top of her car and her helmet seemed to take the brunt of it.

"Fire crews were there within seconds and the ambulance within minutes.

"After a while we thought we saw some movement of her hands but she appeared to be unconscious or unable to move for quite some time."

The 32-year-old, originally from Madrid, was taking part in the first of two days of testing at the site prior to this month's British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Villota is the daughter of retired Formula One driver Emilio de Villota.

Timo Glock and Charles Pic drive for its Formula 1 team, which is yet to score any points this season.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 **LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22
Wearing what you know you look good in gives you power and luck. It is going to be all too easy for you to trust and follow the advice of others. Just remember my friend, that you are the sign who often criticises others for not doing what you would have done. Break out and dare to be different. It could just lead to your dreams becoming a reality. Call now for more predictions.

0906 585 4360 0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 **SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21
Make sure you finish your own work before you promise to help others. Links with the past revive memories and cause laughs and maybe a few tears. A new challenge work wise should be tackled with confidence, don't allow your doubts to show, you can do it. A recent development in your home life creates a problem. Call now to hear how you can best gain back the strength you need.

0906 585 4361 0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21
A relationship peters out, but this doesn't seem to bother you. You may be changing your mind again about a decision which you have only recently made. They say that too many cooks spoil the broth and this could well be the case of too many friends swaying your usually good judgement. Call now to hear why you, and only you can make that all-important decision which looms this week.

0906 585 4362 0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19
News of births gives a reason for you to smile. No matter how tired or lazy you may be feeling this week try to make the effort to get out and about. Not only is there one, but you are in fact set to meet with several new and very attractive faces, all of whom can come up with plenty of ways to banish this recent lack of energy you have been feeling. Call now for a full reading.

0906 585 4363 0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18
Anxiety is your enemy. Chill out and stop worrying over trivialities. You're stronger than you think. An upset with relatives over things that concern outsiders should be nipped in the bud. Romance takes a turn for the better as you finally get to hear the words you spent most of last month dreaming about. Call now to hear how Capricorns can help boost your reputation in the workplace.

0906 585 4364 0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 **PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20
Problems with communications are causing delays, get to the source! Your feelings towards a loved one are increasing. A heart to heart talk is necessary, you must take the initiative. Social activities are more prominent and you start to find friends more suited to your nature. Call my starline now to hear why you need to avoid bitter old flames this month.

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CakeProperty

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Developers look for top wish-list

By Gill Oliver

A RETIREMENT developer is running a special competition in a bid to improve the experience of its residents.

Bosses at McCarthy & Stone, which has two developments in Banbury as well as another in Faringdon, are asking: "What's on your 'want to do list' as you get older?"

The aim is to gain the views of over-60s in a bid to discover exactly how they plan to make the most of their later years.

All responses will be entered into a free draw with prizes including an eight-day escorted tour of Italy, a four-

star break in Spain, a special interest holiday in the UK, five nights in a luxury British hotel and a Mediterranean cruise.

Richard Williams, regional managing director for McCarthy & Stone, said: "Our retirement apartments are built around a belief that later life can be rich, rewarding and hugely fulfilling.

"It's your home and you own it. But the low maintenance lifestyle on offer means you get the freedom to do what you've always wanted – whether that's seeing the latest show, catching up with family or learning to sail. So tear up your 'have to do list' and let us know what you want to do instead."

McCarthy & Stone is currently selling a range of purpose-built, one-

and two-bedroom apartments at its Later Living Merisham Court development on School Lane in Banbury, Dove Court development on Swan Lane in Faringdon and its Assisted Living development, Foxhall Court on School Lane in Banbury.

As well as offering a low-maintenance lifestyle, buyers benefit from features including maintained landscaped gardens, a central lounge, on-site restaurant, domestic assistance, personal care by arrangement and the peace of mind of added security.

McCarthy & Stone can also help purchasers sell their current home at a pre-agreed price, covering many of the costs associated with the sale, including estate agent, solicitor and



removal fees. To take part in the competition, e-mail your wish-list to lifebeginsat60@htrp.com or visit one of the developments.

● For more information, contact McCarthy & Stone on 0800 919132 or see their website: mccarthyandstone.co.uk

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Trinity Close

- Detached bungalow with versatile accommodation, offering either two receptions or two bedrooms, further attic room ideal for many uses. Good size kitchen diner, single garage and driveway, good size garden to front and rear.

NEW

£149,950

Bretch Hill

- This property Offers:- Lounge Kitchen/diner Conservatory Three Bedrooms Family bathroom Rear garden Driveway No chain

NO CHAIN

£179,950

Ashmead Road

- A delightful Two bedroom property offers:- downstairs cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner with built in appliances, two double bedrooms master with ensuite shower, main bathroom, good size garden with garage and parking NO CHAIN

£110,000

Guardian Court

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Calthorpe Street

- One bedroom studio apartment with en suite shower room, Lounge Bedroom with en suite shower room, Town centre Electric heating Ideal for investment or first time buyer

£136,000

Lennox Gardens

- Three bedroom home comprises of:- porch entrance hall, lounge, kitchen breakfast room, utility area, two family bathrooms, three good size bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed off road parking.

£178,950

Tadmorton

- Individual two bedroom cottage located in the village of tadmorton, kitchen, lounge with open fire, shower room, master bedroom with corner bath and ensuite w.c, further double bedroom, small garden area to rear, street parking, No chain

No chain

£145,000

Warwick Road

- This property offers:- Three bedrooms Two reception rooms Kitchen Bathroom Garden Close to the town centre No chain Would benefit from some modernisation Gas central heating Double glazing

£159,500

Hastings Road

- This good size three bedroom family home set on a corner plot offers:- Lounge, Kitchen/diner, bathroom, two double bedrooms, Ensuite/1st floor shower room, bathroom with separate W.C, Low maintenance rear garden, good size front garden with garage and driveway.

NEW PRICE

£119,999

Waltham Gardens

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Nursery Drive

- Four bedroom Semi Detached family home in a popular area offers:- Porch, entrance hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room, downstairs w.c, family bathroom and shower room, rear garden garage and driveway.

SSTC

£179,950

Neithrop Avenue

- Three bedroom home located within easy reach of the town centre, entrance hall, good size lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, double glazing, gas central heating, No chain

SSTC

£159,950

East Street

- We are pleased to offer this well presented town house with accommodation comprising of:- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen/diner, Ground floor bathroom, Two double bedrooms, Ensuite/1st floor shower room, Attic room, Landscaped gardens

SSTC

£167,500

Banbury

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In Memoriam

VIOLET FRENCH

Remembering you
with Love Mum on
your Anniversary



JULY 10th

A golden gate stood open
9 years ago today.

With good byes left unspoken
you quietly slipped away
Loved and Missed Always
Maureen and Family xx

TREVOR KENT

2nd July 2001

Happy times when we
were together

Hold Memories that will last forever

Love and missed
so very much
Vicky, Sharon,
Pete, Trevor,
Lee & Holly
XXX



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To place your
family announcement
Please call

**01865
420420**

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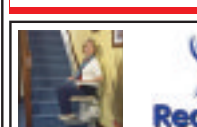
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Sparkling looks for slick saloon

By David Duffy

IF you have spent your life dreaming about having a BMW, Audi, or Mercedes-Benz on the drive then you might as well save yourself a few minutes and stop reading now.

If, however, you fancy driving a luxury car and have an eye for a bargain, then SEAT might have just the solid, sensible saloon for you.

The Exeo is a perfect example of a car industry less prone to waste and much more keen to make the most of a good thing.

For under the skin, the Exeo is the former generation Audi A4 and, seeing that there was plenty of life left in that model, the entire A4 production line was lifted from Ingolstadt, Germany, and reinstalled in Spain in just eight weeks.

So you take the A4, fit new bumpers, bonnet and bootlid, front and rear light clusters and wheels and there you have a sparkling new upper-medium model to slot in at the top of your line-up at a fraction of the normal new-car launch cost.

And the Exeo does sparkle, because it is built on the chassis of the thoroughly dependable A4 and inside, the cabin is pure Audi. That's smart, restrained and beautifully put together.

For 2012, the Exeo has been freshened up with a new-look face with new bi-xenon headlights and

LED daytime running lights standard on Sport models and optional on SE specification cars.

The styling tweaks, and new alloy wheel designs, are backed up by an upgrade to materials inside the car to boost the premium feel.

That upmarket air is all-important in this class of car, where sales are still dominated by the needs and desires of company car drivers. And to cater for that sector, there is also plenty of choice of both engines and trim levels.

On a practical level, changes to the 2.0-litre turbodiesel engine see cuts to emissions and improvements to fuel economy.

Those are welcome improvements to a car whose suspension produces a comfortable ride, combined with lively, satisfying handling. The test car used the super-smooth, electronically-controlled automatic gearbox, which by flick-



FRESHENED UP: The Exeo, which under the skin is the former generation Audi A4, has been given a new look and an upgraded interior

ing the gear selector sideways, delivers a more dynamic drive thanks to seven pre-programmed gear 'ratios' which can be selected either through steering-wheel mounted paddles or via the gear selector.

The SE Tech specification also bristles with goodies including a colour satnav with 3D map display and a ten-speaker Bose hi-fi system with iPod connection.

Badge snobs might not be queuing up for the Exeo, but it packs a whole lot of punch for the price.

Auto facts

Model: SEAT Exeo SE Tech 2.0 TDI
Price: £23,690
Insurance group: 24E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 51.4mpg
Top speed: 129mph
Length: 466.1cm/183.5in
Width: 177.2cm/69.7in
Luggage capacity: 16.2 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 15.4 gallons/70 litres
CO₂ emissions: 146g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Usedcarscene

Choosing right extras can add to resale price

ADDING optional extras can affect a car's resale value more than many people may think, with some options even paying for themselves when you come to sell your motor, car valuation experts at Glass.co.uk have disclosed.

Glass's also warns that some extras may add no value at all and in some cases, especially 'DIY' extras such as self-fitted stereos, can reduce a car's value.

The sat-nav has become the stalwart extra on many new cars, especially luxury models, and is something many Brits can't live without. According to Glass's,

this makes a sat-nav a smart investment when you buy a new car and in many cases will pay for itself when the car is sold.

For example, installing a sat-nav entertainment system on to a new Audi Q3 might cost £500. But if you sell your car two years' later it will be worth £500 more than one without the sat-nav, meaning you've enjoyed a great extra at no additional cost.

The smart buys don't stop there. Bluetooth systems which allow drivers to connect devices such as mobile phones to their car wirelessly also see very high

demand among buyers and will usually retain 50% of their value over three years — so essentially a good extra to have.

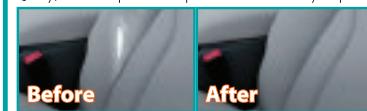
But there is some pimping your pocket could do without. Added extras such as 21-inch wheels and rear entertainment systems on the Audi A8 will set you back a huge £3,500 and £3,800 respectively and offer little to no resale upside.

In both cases you'll lose much of this investment when it comes to selling. Additionally, safety systems such as brake and lane assist can surprisingly add no additional value to a car.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ SKODA has released further details of its fast-approaching Rapid compact saloon following a concept image some months ago. Sized in between the Fabia and Octavia, the Rapid is likely to share a lot of parts and technology with the Volkswagen Jetta. Skoda says the Rapid will have room for five plus their baggage, with five petrol and two diesel engines offered at launch. With the fast efficiency advances being made with small, turbocharged petrol engines and the impending Euro 6 emissions laws, Skoda is anticipating that buyers will begin to swing back towards petrol.

■ THE Vauxhall Astra range is being sharpened up with more aggressive styling and a new more powerful diesel version of the three-door GTC. Prices for the facelifted range are to stay the same, with deliveries starting in September to coincide with the '62' number plate. The BiTurbo Astra GTC 195PS will cost an extra £995 over the 165 horsepower GTC 2.0 CDTi, but has different 18-inch wheels and interior styling.

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2003	53	FORD FIESTA 1.4 'FLAME', 5 Door, Dark Metallic Blue, Very good service history, Aircon, Alloys, Remote central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very nice small car, Sold With a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear.....	£3295
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185.65x14 from	£41.95	205.45x16 from	£54.50	225.45x17 from	£57.50
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ALFA		
Romeo Mito 1.4 TB 155 Veloce	2009, Brilliant Red, 36000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, tints	£9499
AUDI		
Audi A4 2.0T FSI SE	2005/55, Metallic Blue, 52000 mls, climate control, alloys, r/lock, CD player, air bags	£6999
Audi A3 2.0 TDI SE Sportback 170	2008/58, Light Met Blue, 65000 mls, leather, climate control, CD, alloys, tints, r/lock	£11999
Audi A3 Sportback 1.6 Special Edition	2007/57, Metallic Grey, 54000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, alloys, folding seats	£8799
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Audi A6 2.0 TDI DPF Auto S Line	2007, Metallic Grey, 59000 mls, climate control, alloys, CD, air bags, cruise control	£9799
Audi A6 2.7 TDI Estate S	2006/56, Brilliant Red, 95000 mls, leather, sat nav, media center, S line alloys	£10999
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Audi A8 3.8 V8 TDI Quattro Tip	2004/54, Metallic Silver, 63000 mls, sat nav, leather, CD, climate control, wood pack, e/seats, heated seats, plus much more	£12000
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Bentley Arnage Mulliner 6.7 T	2005/55, Metallic Silver, 46000 mls, Magnolia leather, sat nav, climate control, cruise control, wood pack, leather, heated electric seats, wood/leather steering wheel	£44999
BMW		
BMW 316i T1 SE Compact	2004/54, Metallic Blue, 21000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, m/f wheel, PDC	£5699
BMW 316i SE 1.8 Saloon	2003, Metallic Silver, 53000 mls, climate control, CD, cruise, alloys, r/lock	£4399
BMW 325i CI SE Coupe	2004/54, Brilliant Black, 70000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£5799
BMW 330i M Sport Auto	2006, Metallic Silver, 52000 mls, leather, spoiler kit, PDC, CD, climate control, cruise control, e/seats, cd, r/lock	£9999
BMW 330 3.0 SE Coupe Auto	2007, Metallic Grey, 41000 mls, leather, sat nav, paddle shift, climate, cruise, e/seats, cd, r/lock	£13999
BMW 530 Diesel Auto Estate	2007 New Mod, Metallic Grey, 72000 mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, CD, electric memory seats	£13299
BMW 525i M Sport Auto	2006/56, Brilliant Black, 66000 mls, leather, sat nav, body kit, climate control, PDC, e/seats, cruise control	£10499
BMW 24 2.5 Se Auto	2005/55, Metallic Silver, 30000 mls, leather, heated seats, CD, e/roof, alloys	£9999
BMW 24 2.0 SE Convertible	2008/58, Brilliant Red, 79000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, electric roof	£11499
BMW 730 Diesel Sport Auto	2005, Metallic Grey, 14000 mls, leather, sat nav, cruise, alloys, CD, electric seats, r/lock, wood pack	£10999
BMW 730 Diesel SE Auto	2006, Metallic Grey, 75000 mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, CD, heated seats, cruise control, memory seats, PDC, m/f wheel, plus lots more	£10999
BMW X3 2.5i Sport Auto	2004/54, Metallic Silver, 56000 mls, climate control, alloys, leather, CD	£8499
BMW X3 2.0 Diesel Estate	2006, Brilliant Black, 35000 mls, climate control, CD, alloys, r/lock, air bag	£10499
BMW X3 3.0 Diesel SE Auto	2007/57, Brilliant Black, 66000 mls, leather, climate, heated seats, cruise sat nav, side steps, roof rails, CD player	£12499
BMW X5 3.0 Diesel Sport	2006, Metallic Silver, 42000 mls, climate control, alloys, r/lock, tints, CD, cruise, folding seats	£14000
BMW 630 Coupe Auto	2005, Metallic Silver, 59000 mls, leather, air con, PDC, sat nav, alloys, cruise	£11999
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Citroen C5 Estate Tourer 2.0 VTR+ Diesel	2008, Metallic Silver, 50000 mls, air con, CD, r/lock, alloys	£8999
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KIA		
Kia Carens 2.0 CRDI GS Auto 7 Seats	2009/59, Brilliant Black, 38000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, a/bags	£7799
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Lexus IS 200 SPORT CROSS	2004/54, Metallic Silver, 78000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, roof rails, air bags, r/lock	£4499
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FORD		
Ford Street Ka 1.6 Convertible	2005, Metallic Green, 36000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, e/windows, fogs	£3899
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HONDA		
Honda Accord Diesel Executive	2004, Metallic Blue, 70000 mls, leather, alloys, air con, cruise, alloy	£5399
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Hyundai Santa Fe 2.0 TD	2004, Metallic Blue, 53000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, roof rails, r/lock, air bag	£5299
Hyundai Tucson 2.0 CRD TDCI 4WD	2005/55, Metallic Blue, 47000 mls, air con, sunroof, alloys, CD, roof rails	£6799
MAZDA		
Mazda 5 2.0 Diesel TS2 MPV 7 Seats	2008, Brilliant Blue, 47000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock	£7399
Mazda 3 2.0 Sport	2006/56, Metallic Blue, 57000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock, e/windows, air bags	£4499
Mazda 5 Convertible 1.8 Convertible	2006, Metallic Silver, 70000 mls, alloys, CD, r/lock, tints, air bags	£5499
Mazda 6 2.0 Diesel Estate	2007/57, Metallic Blue, 51000 mls, air con, CD, roof rails, air bags, alloys	£5999
MITSUBISHI		
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Mitsubishi Shogun Diesel Equippe	2003, Metallic Grey, 85000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, 7 seats	£6399
MERCEDES		
Mercedes B200 SE Auto	2006/56, Met Silver, 9000 mls only, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, cruise control	£9499
Mercedes C180 1.8 Kompressor SE Coupe Auto	2003, Metallic Silver, 36000 mls, Leather, air con, panoramic sunroof, Mercedes C180 1.8 Kompressor, air bags, cruise, speed limiter	£5299
Mercedes C180 K Saloon Auto	2005/55, Metallic Silver, 31000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£7199
Mercedes C200 1.8 CDI Elegance SE Auto	2004/54, Metallic Silver, 66000 mls, leather, cruise, alloys, CD, r/lock, fogs, e/seats	£6999
Mercedes Benz C200 1.8 K Auto	2003, Metallic Silver, 60000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise, air con	£5899
Mercedes CLK 320 Avantgarde Auto Coupe	2003, Metallic Silver, 83000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise, speed limiter	£5999
Mercedes CLK 240 2.6 Coupe Auto Avantgarde	2004, Metallic Silver, 53000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£6699
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Mercedes Benz CLK 200 Kompressor Elegance Auto	2002/52, Metallic Silver, 50000 mls, leather, cruise control, speed limiter, PDC, CD player, alloys	£6999
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Mercedes E270 CDI Avantgarde Auto	2003/53, Brilliant Black, 56000 mls, climate control, alloys, CD player, PDC, rear rests, leather, pan roof	£8899
Mercedes Benz E320 CDI Elegance Auto	2005/55, Metallic Silver, 60000 mls, climate control, sat nav, CD, park assist, leather trim	£9499
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Mercedes Benz SLK 200 Auto Kompressor	2004, Metallic Silver, 53000 mls, leather, alloys, electric roof, air con, CD	£8099
Mercedes SLK 230 Kompressor	1999, Metallic Silver, 74000 mls, leather, electric roof, CD player, air con	£5299
Mercedes Benz SLK 200 Kompressor Auto	2003, Metallic Silver, 29000 mls, leather, alloys, e/roof, r/lock, CD player, tilt wheel	£8399
Mercedes Benz SL 350 Auto Convertible	2007, Metallic Blue, 27000 mls, leather, climate control, CD, cruise control, e/roof, electric seats, alloys	£22999
Mercedes Benz SL 500 Auto Convertible	2003, Metallic Blue, 77000 mls, leather, climate control, sat nav, e/roof, fogs, e/seats, wood pack	£13499
Mercedes S320 CDI Diesel	2003/53, Metallic Silver, 84000 mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, CD, cruise control, r/lock, e/seats, heated seats	£7899
MITSUBISHI		
Mitsubishi Outlander DD Elegance	2007/57, Brilliant Black, 45000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, air bags, roof rails, folding seats, 7 seats	£11999
MINI		
Mini Cooper 1.6 S Auto Convertible	2007, Brilliant Silver, 44000 mls, air con, electric roof, tints, alloys, CD, chrome roll bars, leather, radio stereo	£9999
NISSAN		
Nissan Navara 2.5 DCI 4wd Aventura Crew Cab	2006, Brilliant Black, 51000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, load cover, no vat	£10499
Nissan Navara Aventura Auto D/C 2.5 DCI Pickup	2007, Metallic Grey, 57000 mls, leather, sat nav, air con, alloys, roof bars, CD, crew cab	£10999
Nissan Qashqai-Acenta Auto	2007/57, Pearllesent Silver, 43000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, tints	£9299
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Porsche Boxster 2.7 Convertible Face Lift Mod	2005, Metallic Silver, 49000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, e/roof, r/lock, electric rear spoiler, air bags	£12799
Porsche Boxster 3.2 S Convertible	2002, Brilliant Red, 53000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, e/roof	£9799
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Peugeot 1007 Sport Diesel	2006, Metallic Grey, 42000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock, PAS, e/windows	£3899
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SSangyong Rexton 270 SE7 Diesel	2008, Metallic Silver, 29000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock, air con	£7799
SUZUKI		
Suzuki Grand Vitara 5dr Estate 1.6V	2006, Metallic Silver, 60000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock	£6199
Suzuki Swift VVT 1.6 Sport	2007, Metallic Silver, 24000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, twin exhausts	£6199
SUBARU		
Subaru Forester XT Estate	2003, Metallic Blue/Grey, 65000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, rails, CD	£5699
Subaru Legacy 2.0 Turbo Diesel Boxer Estate	2008, Metallic Grey, 73000 mls, leather, sat nav, cruise, alloys full length glass sunroof, electric memory seats	£11299
Subaru Forester 2.0 Estate	2006/56, Brilliant Black, 75000 mls, Leather, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock	£6499
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Toyota Mr2 1.8 VTI	2006, Metallic Silver, 33000 mls, CD, alloys, r/lock, fogs, conv roof	£6299
Toyota Rav 4 2.0 XT Auto 5dr	2005/55, Brilliant Black, 43000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, roof rails, r/lock, folding seats	£7799
Toyota Rav 4 2.2 D-4D XTR 5 Dr	2009, Metallic Grey, 50000 mls, air con, alloys, cd, roof rails, r/lock	£11499
Toyota Landcruiser 3.0 DA-4D LC5 Auto	2004, Metallic Silver, 59000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, 7 seats sat nav, cruise control, folding seats, sunroof	£15599
Toyota Land Cruiser 3.0 Auto Diesel	2002/52, Metallic Blue, 71000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, 7 seats, tow pack, e/windows, folding seats	£11899
VAUXHALL		
Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTI Active	2006, Metallic Grey, 41000 mls, climate control, 7 seats, alloys, CD	£6199
Vauxhall Tigra 1.8 Exclusive convertible	2006/56, brilliant black, 52000 mls, e/roof, air con, aluminium pack	£5499
Vauxhall Tigra 1.8 Sport Convertible	2004/54, Metallic Blue, 55000 mls, leather, air con, electric roof, r/lock, alloys	£4399
Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTI 16 Life MPV	2008/57, Brilliant Black, 42000 mls, air con, r/lock, CD	£4699
VOLKSWAGEN		
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 SE Automatic	2006, Metallic Silver, 51000 mls, cruise control, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, air bags	£5499
Volkswagen Jetta 1.6 TDI PD S Diesel	2006, Brilliant Black, 34000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, tints, rear rests	£6499
Volkswagen Toureg 2.5 TDI Se Auto	2006/56, Metallic Blue, 54000 mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, cruise, r/lock, rear rests, air bags, radio stereo CD	£13299
VOLVO		
Volvo C30 SE Lux Coupe	2007/56, Metallic Black, 31000 mls, leather, CD, h/seats, air con, alloys	£8599
Volvo S40 2.4 Se G/Tronic Auto	2006/56, Metallic Green, 55000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock, rear rests air bags	£2999
Volvo S80 2.8 T6 SE Geartronic	2001/51, 45000 mls, leather, climate, alloys, tints, r/CD player, rear head rests	£2099
Volvo V50 T5 AWD Estate SE Geartronic	2005, Brilliant Black, 63000 mls, leather, CD, cruise, alloys, roof rails, r/lock	£6899
Volvo C70 2.0 Convertible	2005, Metallic Grey, 72000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, e/roof, r/lock, tilt wheel	£4699
Volvo C70 CC 2.4 D5 180 Sport Convertible	2008, Metallic Silver, 48000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, roof, fogs, radio stereo	£11299
Volvo C70 2.4 Convertible	2008, Metallic Silver, 32000 mls, leather, air con, e/roof, tints, cruise control, rear rests	£11499



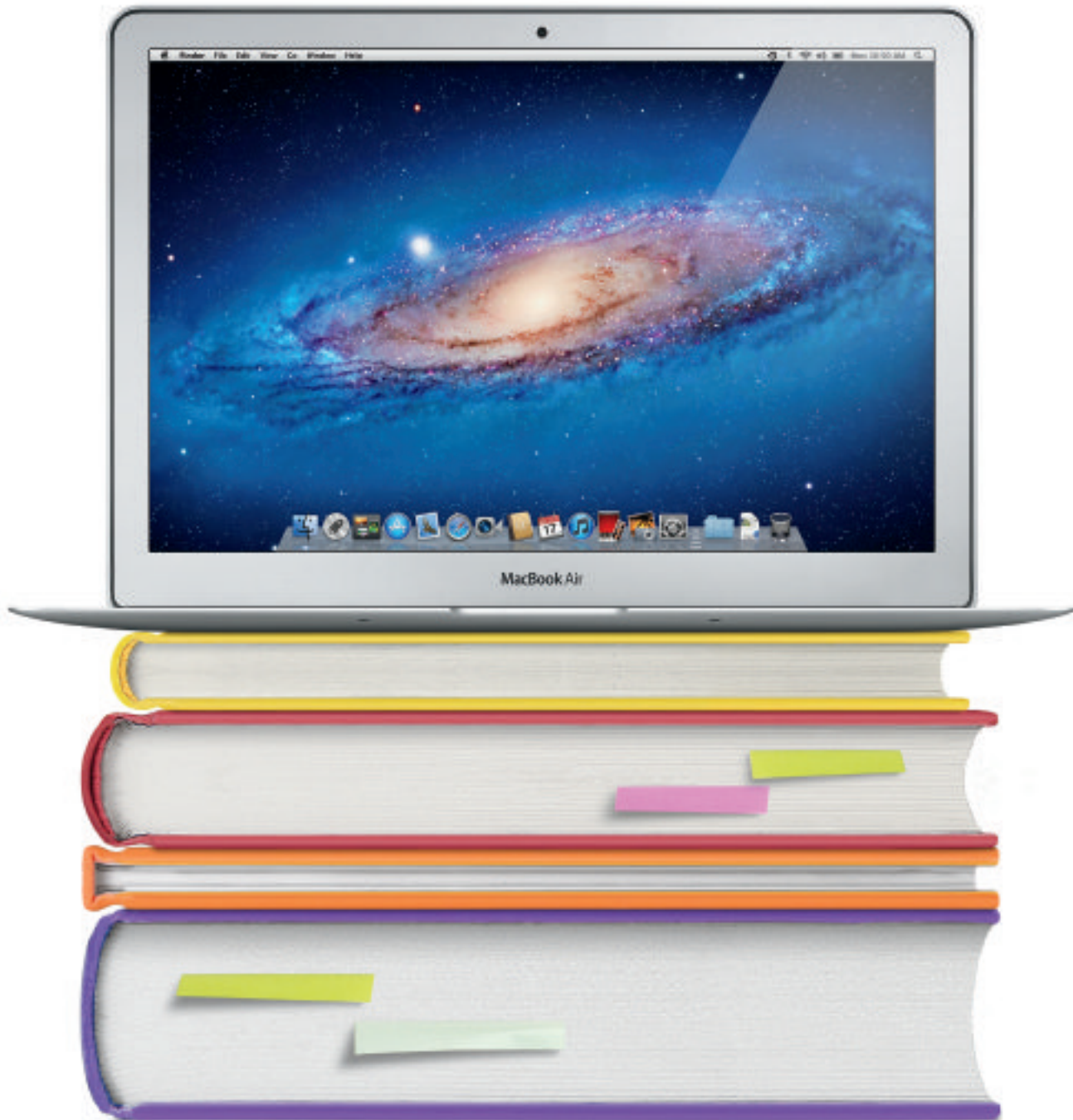
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